

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Protected Areas (National Parks and Sanctuaries) have increased from 426 (109652 sq.km) to 597 (156119 sq.km.) since 1988, as on 01.01.2007.

(c) The six tiger reserves situated around 250 km. from Nagpur [Kanha (Madhya Pradesh), Satpura (Madhya Pradesh), Pench (Madhya Pradesh), Pench (Maharashtra), Tadoba-Andhari (Maharashtra) and Melghat (Maharashtra)] have been provided funding support under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Project Tiger. The details of funding support provided to these tiger reserves including utilization done by them during the last three years is provided at Statement.

Statement

Details of funding support provided to tiger reserves

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	Release 2003-04	*Utilization 2003-04	Release 2004-05	*Utilization 2004-05	Release 2005-06	*Utilization 2005-06
1.	Kanha	282.86	231.36	197.50	203.867	241.00	246.576
2.	Satpura	97.92	92.21	170.00	178.745	100.00	149.215
3.	Pench (MP)	68.97	65.86	97.43	78.24	128.63	130.87
4.	Pench (Mah)	97.19	121.67	87.77	88.805	75.00	77.711
5.	Tadoba- Andhari	471.00	470.00	75.00	30.045	63.07	70.685
6.	Melghat	60.00	74.92	93.183	89.405	165.00	165.36

Apple orchards in Himachal Pradesh

474. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the apple orchards in Himachal Pradesh are losing ground as cement manufacturers are offering crores of rupees in return for its limestone wealth;

(b) whether it is also a fact that till a decade ago, Himachal Pradesh had consciously kept the cement industry at low priority due to environmental concerns despite its vast deposits of limestone; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent the environmental damage in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the information provided by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, no cement plants are located in apple growing areas of the State. Also the area and production of apple are increasing in the State.

(b) As per the information provided by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the environment protection and conservation is the priority of the State Government and all the development is taken in conformity with the protection of environment.

(c) The cement industrial units, as listed in the Schedule of EIA Notification, 2006, are required to seek prior environmental clearance either at the Central level (for category 'A') or at the State level (for category 'B'). Necessary environmental safeguards are stipulated while according environmental clearances to such development projects.

Air quality in Capital

475. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air quality in five locations of the Capital are far beyond the permissible level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to improve the situation;

(d) whether similar air quality studies have been conducted in other major cities and towns; and

(e) if so, what are the details and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Control Board (CPCB) has been monitoring the ambient air quality of Delhi at Nizamuddin, Janakpuri, Shahdara, Shahzada Bagh, Pitam Pura, under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The CPCB is also